

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-implemented method of for performing the business of placing a digital image processing and fulfillment request order via a communications network comprising:~~

- a) identifying a user using a computing unit;
- b) acquiring ~~an at least one~~ a digital image captured by a digital imaging device;
- c) generating a provisioner comprising a set of settings for the identified user based on associating a profile aspect, a personalization aspect, and a customization aspect[[s]] to said of the identified user into a user provisioner, wherein:

said profile aspect[[s]] includes a user address, a user contact information, and a user billing information;

said personalization aspect[[s]] includes a set of predetermined user-selected image processing settings for modification of the digital image; a choice of digital photography enhancement, a choice of automated rendering (eg., ignore over-developed or under-developed photographs or automatic image relation), a choice of digital photography layout, a choice of digital photography fulfillment presentation (slides, prints, album), and a preferred means of notification (mobile, PDA, email, web service);

said customization aspect[[s]] includes a set of instance-specific settings that govern fulfillment of the digital image; a physical hardcopy fulfillment, a choice of vendor for hardcopy fulfillment, and a choice of physical pickup of hardcopy fulfillment or other non-physical means of taking delivery;

- d) automatically performing a single-event instantiation process which completes a user request, said single-event instantiation process including sending associating the provisioner with a processing and fulfillment request order; along with the user

~~provisioner to a plurality of system components, the plurality of system components operating to fulfill said user request,~~

~~wherein the step of automatically performing [[a]] single-event instantiation process is automatically performed in response to the result identification verification of the user and acquiring the acquisition said at least one digital image, wherein the user is a single user and the information regarding the user is captured dynamically and additional information augments the dynamic user information during the single event instantiation of a processing and fulfillment order,~~

~~wherein the entire single-event instantiation of [[a]] the processing and fulfillment request order further generates offers a preview of the entire processing and fulfillment workflow to verify availability of the set of settings of and validate that all options are valid and available as specified by the user provisioner;~~

- ~~e) receiving said user request under control of a single event instantiation of a plurality of processing and fulfillment system components;~~
- ~~f) retrieving the provisioner associated with said identified user;~~
- ~~g) determining payment and authorization methods using said user provisioner;~~
- ~~h) retrieving a fulfillment delivery method using said user provisioner;~~
- ~~i) providing for user personalization and customization of the order processing and fulfillment workflow using said user provisioner, wherein the user does not need to explicitly, directly or indirectly, specify operations, manipulations or enhancements on the at least one digital image, either singularly or as a group or collection, when placing a processing and fulfillment order;~~
- ~~j) fulfilling said processing and fulfillment order to complete processing and fulfillment of the single event instance; and~~
- ~~k) whereby the processing and fulfillment order is completed without using a software application, a web online service, or a traditional shopping cart ordering model.~~

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the user

comprises receiving a submission of one or more of a user identification involves entry of user id and password in [[a]] the single-event instantiation process.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the user comprises receiving a submission of one or more of a user identification involves an email address and password in [[a]] the single-event instantiation process.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the user comprises processing a user identification is a credit card/ATM swipe in [[a]] the single-event instantiation process.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the user user identification in [[a]] the single-event instantiation process is enabled through a smart chip enabled device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying the user user identification in [[a]] the single-event instantiation process is enabled through a biometric identification.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the single-event instantiation process of the identifying the user user identification is a self mailer/drop-off mailer model.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring the digital image acquisition of digital images is made performed via a direct cable link to the digital imaging device.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring the digital image acquisition of digital images is made performed via a wireless link to the digital imaging device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring the digital image acquisition of digital images uses a digital media memory card reader.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a digital still camera device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a digital video camera device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a mobile radiotelephone device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a portable digital assistant computing device with digital camera extension.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~presentation of information captured during a preview of the entire processing and fulfillment workflow~~ permits the user to fine-tune choices and options prior to completion of fulfillment, final commitment.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing and fulfillment request is sent to a plurality of system components operable to process the request, wherein, the client system and the plurality of system components communicate via a Wide Area Network such as the Internet.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 20, wherein ~~the client system and the plurality of system components communicate via a secure connection utilizing encryption for these portions at least a portion of the processing and fulfillment request, order for which security and privacy are desired.~~

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 20, wherein the plurality of system components can serve multiple purposes in completing performing one or more aspects

tasks of the processing and fulfillment request order.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of system components can process multiple single-event instantiations of the ~~user-request~~ processing and fulfillment request order, each mutually independent from each other.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein one system component of the plurality of system components is a server offering one or more different processing and fulfillment behaviors.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the one system component is a user email account displaying an email information message ~~pertinent~~ related to the ~~user request~~ processing and fulfillment request order status.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the one system component is a user text messaging account destination displaying information ~~pertinent~~ related to the ~~user request~~ processing and fulfillment request order.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Withdrawn) A digital image system enabling a user to download digital images and fulfill digital image processing requests in a manner personalized to said user, said digital image system comprising:

a first computing environment for initiating digital image order requests, said first computing environment operable to receive a download of digital images from a user together with an order request from said user related to said digital images, said first computing environment including a provisioner related to said user, said provisioner storing user profile information, user personalization information, and user customization information, said provisioner utilized in fulfilling said order request in a manner personalized to said user;

a second computing environment for fulfilling said order request, said second computing environment coupled to said first computing environment, said second computing environment including at least one fulfillment device; and

wherein said first and second computing environments are operable to process and fulfill said order request utilizing said at least one fulfillment device.

30. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein:
said digital image system is a digital photograph system for processing digital photograph order requests.

31. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 30, wherein:
said first computing environment includes an automatic teller machine used as a user interface for said first computing environment.

32. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 30, wherein:
said first computing environment includes a computer kiosk used as a user interface for said first computing environment.

33. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 30, wherein:
said first computing environment includes a desktop computer system located at a retail photography store, said desktop computer system used as a user interface for said first computer environment.

34. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 32, wherein said first computing environment includes a user interface located at a retail store.

35. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 34, wherein said retail store is a retail photography store which also provides analog photography processing.

36. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 34, wherein said retail store is a coffee shop.

37. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment includes a user interface operable to query said user for information,

receive information from said user, and to provide feedback to said user regarding status of said order request.

38. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said user interface includes a plurality of electronic screens which guide said user through user authorization, and entry of said order request.

39. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment includes a communications channel for coupling with a digital camera in order to download said digital images from said digital camera.

40. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 39, wherein said communications channel is wireless technology.

41. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 39, wherein said communications channel is infrared (IR) technology.

42. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment includes a device for receiving a digital camera expansion memory source, whereby said device is used in downloading said digital images.

43. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first and second computing environments are connected via a wide area network such as the Internet.

44. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 43, wherein said connection between said first and second computing environments is a secure connection utilizing encryption for those portions of the processing and fulfillment order for which security and privacy are desired.

45. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said order fulfillment device is a persistent memory device such as a CD-ROM burner.

46. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said order fulfillment device is a presentation medium such as a display screen, an audio device, or a tactile device.

47. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said order fulfillment device is a means for producing a hard copy output such as digital image printing device.

48. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment is further operable to verify whether said user is authorized to use said first and second computing environments to fulfill said requested order.

49. (Withdrawn) A digital image system further comprising a monetization process operable to monetize order fulfillment.

50. (Withdrawn) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first and second computing environments are a scale-free distributed computing environment.

51. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system enabling a user to download digital photography images and fulfill digital photography requests, said digital photography system comprising:

a first computing environment for initiating digital photography order requests, said first computing environment operable to receive a download of digital photography images from a user together with an order request from said user related to said digital photography images, said first computing environment including a user interface operable to query for and receive information from said user, said first computing environment including a provisioner related to said user, said provisioner storing user profile information, user personalization information, and user customization information, said provisioner utilized in fulfilling said order request in a manner personalized to said user;

a second computing environment for fulfilling said order request, said second computing environment coupled to said first computing environment, said second computing environment including at least one fulfillment device; and

wherein said first and second computing environments are operable to process, fulfill and monetize said order request utilizing said at least one fulfillment device.

52. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said user interface includes a plurality of electronic screens which guide said user through user authorization, and entry of said order request.

53. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said first computing environment includes a communications channel for directly coupling with a digital camera in order to download said digital photography images from said digital camera.

54. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said first computing environment includes a device for receiving a digital camera expansion memory source, whereby said device is used in downloading said digital photography images.

55. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said first and second computing environments are connected via a wide area network such as the Internet.

56. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 55, wherein said connection between said first and second computing environments is a secure connection utilizing encryption.

57. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said order fulfillment device is a persistent storage mechanism such as a CD-ROM burner.

58. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said order fulfillment device is a digital photography-printing device.

59. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system enabling a user to download digital photography images and fulfill digital photography requests, said digital photography system comprising:

a first computing environment for initiating digital photography order requests, said first computing environment including:

a user interface operable to query said user for information, receive information from said user, and provide feedback to said user regarding status of said order request;

a communications channel for coupling to either a digital camera or a digital camera expansion memory in order to download said digital photography images into said first computing environment; and

a provisioner related to said user, said provisioner storing user profile information, user personalization information, and user customization information, said provisioner utilized in fulfilling said order request in a manner personalized to said user;

a second computing environment for fulfilling said order request, said second computing environment coupled to said first computing environment, said second computing environment including at least one fulfillment device.

60. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 59, wherein said first computing environment is remote with respect to said second computing environment.

61. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 59, wherein said first computing environment includes a computer device within a retail store which provides said user interface.

62. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 61, wherein said retail store is a coffee shop.

63. (Withdrawn) A digital photography system as recited in claim 59, wherein said first computing environment includes a computer device owned by said user, said computer device providing said user said user interface, said computer device coupled to said first computing device via the Internet.

64. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method for fulfilling user digital photography orders, said computer implemented method comprising;
maintaining a provisioner database storing data regarding a plurality of authorized users;

receiving a digital photography order from a first user;
obtaining identity information regarding said first user;
determining whether said first user is authorized via a process involving said identity information and said provisioner database; and
performing the following when said first user is determined to be authorized:
retrieving digital photography images from a storage medium provided by said first user;
verifying integrity of said retrieved digital photography images; and
processing said digital photography images in accordance with first user data stored in said provisioner database.

65. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method as recited in claim 64, wherein maintaining said provisioner database includes prompting said first user for enrollment into said provisioner database when said first user is not authorized.

66. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method as recited in claim 64, wherein said first user couples a digital camera directly to a computing environment in order to download said digital photography images.

67. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method as recited in claim 64, wherein said first user couples a digital camera expansion memory to a computing environment in order to download said digital photography images.

68. (Withdrawn) A digital storage device storing a provisioner data structure being a single instance instantiation of a workflow strategy; said provisioner data structure comprising:
static profile information regarding a specific user;
dynamic information regarding how said specific user wishes to personalize a processing and fulfillment order; and
dynamic information regarding how said specific user wishes to personalize a specific workflow strategy.

69. (Withdrawn) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a digital media memory card.

70. (Withdrawn) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a smart card.

71. (Withdrawn) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a credit card.

72. (Withdrawn) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a digital media memory card.

73. (Withdrawn) A digital storage device having a provisioner proxy indirecting into a database of provisioners.

74. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein, the personalization aspect comprises, one or more settings for image enhancement of the digital image.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein, the personalization aspect further comprises, one or more settings for identifying over developed or under developed digital photographs.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein, the personalization aspect further comprises, one or more settings for selecting layout of the digital photographs.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein, the personalization aspect further comprises, a setting for selecting one or more fulfillment formats of the digital photographs, the one or more fulfillment formats comprising, slides, prints, and an album.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein, the personalization aspect further comprises, a setting to select one or more preferred means of notification of fulfillment, the one or more preferred means comprising, voice, text, mobile device, PDA, email, and web-service.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein, the personalization aspect, further comprises, a set of adaptable settings defined by user behavior.

80. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein, the customization aspect comprises, a setting to select a physical hardcopy fulfillment, a vendor for hardcopy fulfillment, or a physical pickup of hardcopy fulfillment.

81. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein, the customization aspect further comprises, a setting to select one or more non-physical means of receiving the fulfillment.

82. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising, fulfilling said processing and fulfillment request to complete processing and fulfillment of the single-event instantiation.

83. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein, the processing and fulfillment request is completed without using a software application, a web online service, or a traditional shopping cart ordering model.

84. (New) A method, comprising:
identifying a user using a computing unit;
acquiring a digital image captured by a digital imaging device;
generating a provisioner comprising a set of settings for the identified user based on a profile aspect, a personalization aspect, and a customization aspect of the identified user, wherein the profile aspect is manifested as an RDFOWL instance; wherein:
the personalization aspect includes a set of predetermined user-selected image processing settings for modification of the digital image;
wherein, the personalization aspect further comprises, one or more settings for identifying over developed or under developed digital photographs
the customization aspect includes a set of instance-specific settings that govern fulfillment of the digital image;
automatically performing a single-event instantiation process, said single-event instantiation process including associating the user provisioner with a processing and fulfillment request; and
wherein the single-event instantiation process is automatically performed in

response to verification of the user and acquiring the digital image.

85. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein, the personalization aspect is manifested as an RDF/OWL instance.

86. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein, the customization aspect is manifested as an RDF/OWL instance.

87. (New) A method, comprising:
identifying a user using a computing unit;
acquiring a digital image captured by a digital imaging device;
generating a provisioner comprising a set of settings for the identified user based on a personalization aspect and a customization aspect of the identified user, wherein:
the personalization aspect includes a set of predetermined user-selected image processing settings for modification of the digital image;
the customization aspect includes a set of instance-specific settings that govern fulfillment of the digital image;
automatically performing a single-event instantiation process, said single-event instantiation process including associating the user provisioner with a processing and fulfillment request; and
wherein the the single-event instantiation process is automatically performed in response to verification of the user and acquiring the digital image.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein, the personalization aspect is manifested as an RDF/OWL instance.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein, the customization aspect is manifested as an RDF/OWL instance.

90. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the processing and fulfillment request is sent to a plurality of system components operable to process the request, wherein, the plurality of system components communicate via a network.

91. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein the plurality of system components communicate via a secure connection utilizing encryption for at least a portion of the processing and fulfillment request.

92. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein the plurality of system components serve multiple purposes in performing one or more tasks of the processing and fulfillment request.

93. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein the plurality of system components process multiple single-event instantiations of the processing and fulfillment request, each mutually independent from each other.

94. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein one system component of the plurality of system components is a server offering one or more different processing and fulfillment behaviors.

95. (New) A method, comprising:
identifying a user using a computing unit;
acquiring a digital image captured by a digital imaging device;
generating a provisioner comprising a set of settings for the identified user based on a personalization aspect and a customization aspect of the identified user, wherein the personalization aspect is manifested as an RDF/DAML instance; wherein:
the personalization aspect includes a set of predetermined user-selected image processing settings for modification of the digital image;
wherein, the personalization aspect, further comprises, a set of adaptable settings defined by user behavior;
wherein, the personalization aspect further comprises, a setting to select one or more preferred means of notification of fulfillment, the one or more preferred means comprising, voice, text, mobile device, PDA, email, and web-service;
the customization aspect includes a set of instance-specific settings that govern fulfillment of the digital image;
automatically performing a single-event instantiation process, said single-event

instantiation process including associating the user provisioner with a processing and fulfillment request;

wherein, the processing and fulfillment request is sent to a plurality of system components operable to process the request, wherein, plurality of system components communicate via a network;

wherein the the single-event instantiation process is automatically performed in response to verification of the user and acquiring the digital image.